

Kick-start Mandarin

Book 1

一起来学华语

林凯祺 编著

第一册

Lam Kai Chee

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Lam Kai Chee

Universiti Malaysia Sarawak
Kota Samarahan

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Foreword

With the rapid growth of China in the global context, the thirst of learning Mandarin as a foreign or second language is on the rise. There are endless reasons for people to learn a new language, but the obvious ones are instrumental needs and the cultural charm that lies behind the language.

‘Qian li zhi xing, shi yu zu xia’ is a Chinese saying, meaning any long journey inevitably starts from the first step one makes. Learning Mandarin as a new language is no different from engaging in a long journey as such, and the first step in this respect is crucial. One requires a good-enough learning companion as it serves as the stepping stone for him or her to explore into the fruitful world of Mandarin.

Accordingly, I feel honoured to offer to our fellow readers this book. Thematically organized, the bilingual book is presented in simple language, clear structure and practical style – simple, clear and practical enough for zero beginners at the undergraduate level to study Mandarin as a foreign language. All lessons in this book are relatively short and about equal in length, with sufficient vocabulary aiming at enriching the study experience of learners. Specially tailored to learners who wish to start conversing Mandarin in the basic way, the book is intended for a 14-week study.

The textbook draws on the author's about 10 years of experience teaching Mandarin as a foreign language. I am pleased to invite you joining the author in this series to open up more possibilities in learning another language.

Professor Dr Ambigapathy a/I Pandian

Preface

With its content presented mainly in the form of common as well as contextualised daily conversations, “Kick-start Mandarin (Book 1)” is the first of three books in the textbook series specially written for total beginners who take up Mandarin proficiency course in Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS). The textbook is designed to allow learners 14 weeks of study.

Prior to this publication, most of the content of this book has been in use in actual classroom setting for many semesters. After many improvements and enhancements, the current book is now published, aimed at serving the learners in a better way. Some common features of this book include localised content, side-by-side presentation of Chinese characters and hanyu pinyin (Romanised Chinese), vocabulary with English translation, vocabulary expansion, and section on writing Chinese characters.

What makes this book special is that it has a few more special features, each serving different purpose. Firstly, the book has a glossary which enables easy look-up of vocabulary and meaning. Secondly, its Chinese characters are printed in bigger font size so as to get interested learners focus easily on the characters, while not having reading problem as each Chinese character is provided with hanyu pinyin. As learners progress, they may opt to gradually reduce dependency on hanyu pinyin. Thirdly, the must-know characters of each lesson are printed in different shades for easy recognition and revision. In addition, each must-know character comes with their formation method to facilitate character recognition as well as writing.

It is hoped that this book can come in handy for learners who wish to explore the world of Mandarin. Happy learning!

Lam Kai Chee

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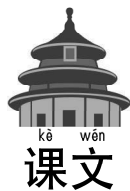
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How to Use This Textbook

Each lesson consists of two major components, iconized by



kè wén
课文

, which means 'text', and



shēng cí
生词

, 'vocabulary'.

Occasionally, the following component will also come in:

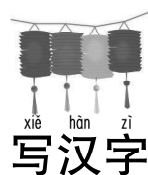


tì dài
替代

, meaning 'substitution' (vocabulary expansion).

At the end of every lesson, you will find a section named 写汉字. 写 (xiě) means 'write' while 汉字 (hànzì) means 'Chinese characters'. The section of 写汉字 for Lesson 1 looks like this:

nǐ 你	hǎo 好	ma 吗	hěn 很	zǎo 早
ān 安	duì 对	bù 不	qǐ 起	















xiě hàn zì
写汉字

Characters listed in the section of 写汉字 are the compulsory characters you need to be able to recognize, read (without the help of hanyu pinyin), and write towards the end of semester. These characters are the characters that you will encounter in your PBC0033 final examination.

After each lesson has been taught, students are expected to start writing the characters under the section of 写汉字. Detailed animated stroke-by-stroke instruction of the writing of each character is available in the online learning platform made available to students of UNIMAS.

It should be note that the textbook is meant to be used alongside with proper guidance from a Mandarin language instructor.



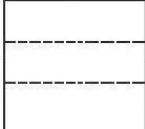
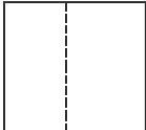

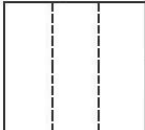
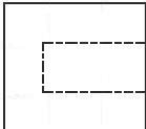
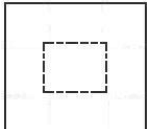

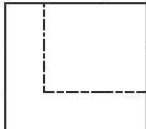
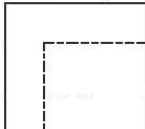
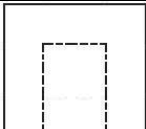
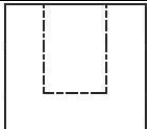

Basic Strokes of Chinese Characters

Stroke		Name	Example	Way to write
		diǎn	^{men} 们	From top to bottom-right.
		héng	^{yī} 一	From left to right.
		shù	^{shí} 十	From top to bottom.
		piě	^{yuè} 月	From top to bottom-left.
		nà	^{bā} 八	From top to bottom-right.
		tí	^{wǒ} 我	From bottom-left to top-right.

Basic Stroke Order of Chinese Characters

Common Rules	Example
Horizontal before vertical	一十
Downward-left before downward-right	ノ 人
From top to bottom	一 二 三
From left to right	丨 𠂇 女 𠂇 好好
From outside to inside	丿 月 月 月
Complete inside before sealing	丨 冂 𠔁 𠔁 四 四
Middle, left side, then right side	丨 小 小

Common Formation Methods of Chinese Characters with Samples

Formation method	Examples				
Top – bottom	 ān 安	 nín 您	 gāo 高		
Left – right	 nǐ 你	 méi 没	 kā 咖		
Surrounded	 yī 医	 kùn 困	 xí 习	 qǐ 起	 zài 在
	 fēng 风	 xiōng 凶			
Single structure	 huǒ 火				

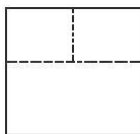
(1) Top – bottom

1(a)



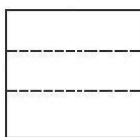
ān 安	bà 爸	chá 茶	dì 弟	gē 哥	guān 关	hào 号
jiā 家	jīn 今	jué 觉	kè 客	liù 六	mǎi 买	nán 男
pán 盘	qù 去	róng 容	shí 食	shì 是	sù 岁	táng 堂
	xīng 星	xué 学	yào 要	yì 易	yú 鱼	zǎo 早

1(b)



xiǎng
想

1(c)



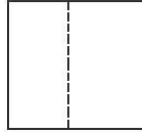
diǎn
点

gāo
高

xǐ
喜

(2) Left – right

2(a)



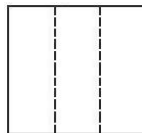
chī 吃	chōng 冲	de 的	duì 对	è 饿	fàn 饭	fēi 啡
gěi 给	guǎn 馆	hǎo 好	hē 喝	hé 和	hěn 很	huān 欢
jī 鸡	jiào 叫	jiě 姐	kuài 块	lěng 冷	liáng 凉	mā 妈
ma 吗	máng 忙	mèi 妹	mén 们	míng 明	nà 那	nǐ 你
péng 朋	qī 期	qì 汽	shī 师	shén 什	shì 试	shuì 睡
tā 他	tā 她	tāng 汤	wǎn 碗	wǎn 晚	xì 戏	xíng 行
	yǐ 以	yín 银	yóu 邮	zuó 昨		

2(b)



dé 得	méi 没	yuàn 院
---------	----------	-----------

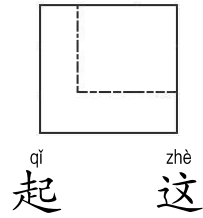
2(c)



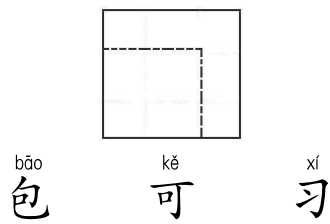
kā
咖

(3) Surrounded

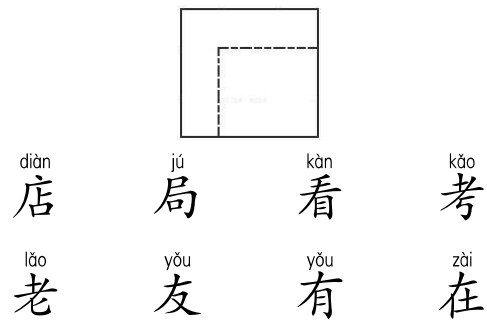
3(a)



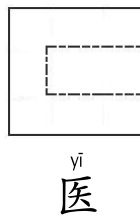
3(b)



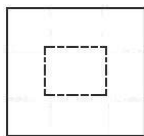
3(c)



3(d)



3(e)



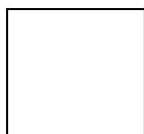
huí
回

kùn
困

tú
图

yīn
因

(4) Single structure



bā
八

bǎi
百

bù
不

chū
出

dà
大

èr
二

gè
个

jiàn
见

jiǔ
九

lái
来

liǎng
两

le
了

máo
毛

me
么

miàn
面

nián
年

nǚ
女

qī
七

qì
气

rén
人

rì
日

sān
三

shàng
上

shēng
生

shí
十

shū
书

shuǐ
水

sì
四

tài
太

tiān
天

wéi
为

wǒ
我

wǔ
五

wǔ
午

xì
系

xià
下

xiǎo
小

xīng
兴

yī
一

yuè
月

zài
再

zhèng
正

zhōng
中

zuò
坐

Common Classroom Phrases

wǒ men shàng kè
我们上课。

Let's start our lesson.

kàn zhè lǐ
看这里。

Look over here.

gēn wǒ dú
跟我读。

Read after me.

gēn wǒ shuō
跟我说。

Say after me.

tīng wǒ shuō
听我说。

Listen to me.

zài yí cì
再一次。

Once again.

zài dú yí cì
再读一次。

Read it again.

zài shuō yí cì
再说一次。

Say it again.

xià yí ge
下一个。

Next.

ná chū kè běn
拿出课本。

Take out your textbook.

ná chū yǔ yīn cāo liàn běn
拿出语音操练本。

Take out your pronunciation book.

fān dào dì yè
翻到第.....页。

Turn to page ...

dǒng ma
懂吗？

Understand?

jì dé ma
记得吗？

Remember?

yǒu wèn tí ma
有问题吗？

Any question?

wǒ bú huì shuō
我 不 会 说……

I don't know how to say ...

zhè ge zì shì shén me yì si
这 个 字 是 什 么 意 思？

What's the meaning of this character?

wǒ wàng le
我 忘 了。

I've forgotten.

hǎo
好！

OK!

wǒ men xià kè
我 们 下 课。

Lesson's over.

The Phonetic System of Mandarin Chinese: Hanyu Pinyin

Chinese writing system consists of about 60000 characters (汉字 hànzi), even the frequently used characters are about 3500. However in terms of the sounds in spoken Mandarin Chinese (汉语 hànyǔ), there are only about 400 basic syllables.

In order to learn these 400 basic syllables, one of the most common ways is through hanyu pinyin. Hanyu pinyin is Mandarin Chinese presented using the form of Roman alphabets, so that people can learn to pronounce in the language much easily at least in the early stage. In a wider context, Hanyu pinyin serves to facilitate the promotion of Mandarin Chinese. It was officially announced by the National's People's Congress of the People's Republic of China in 1958.

Although presented in the form of Roman alphabets, which can be used effectively as a transcription system for Chinese characters, hanyu pinyin should not be confused with the conventional spelling of English syllables, be it in terms of spelling or pronunciation.

Formation of Chinese Syllables

36 Finals

a	o	e	ī	u	ǔ
ai	ao	ei	ou		
ia	iao	ie	iu		
ua	uo	uai	ui	üe	
an	en	ian	in		
uan	un	üan	ün		
ang	eng	ong	iang	ing	iong
uang	ueng				
er					

21 Initials

b	p	m	f
g	k	h	
d	t	n	l
j	q	x	
zh	ch	sh	r
z	c	s	

Note: The “i” in the syllables “zhi”, “chi”, “shi”, “ri”, “zi”, “ci”, and “si” is not the common final “i”.

Tones

Mandarin Chinese is a tonal language. It has 4 tones with the addition of 1 neutral tone. Flipping through any Mandarin Chinese coursebook you will almost invariably find the following ‘classic’ example demonstrating the point that a syllable read in different tones may express different meanings in the language.

		First tone	Second tone	Third tone	Fourth tone	Neutral tone
Example	Hanzi	妈	麻	马	骂	吗
	Hanyu Pinyin	mā	má	mǎ	mà	ma
	Meaning	mother	numb	horse	scold	question particle

In Mandarin Chinese, each character is a syllable by itself, which will definitely consist of a final. A syllable, however, may or may not have an initial and/or a tone.

Chinese syllable = (initial) + final + (tone)

Half third tone

When pronouncing a half third tone, only the first half (the falling part) of the tone is articulated. A third-tone syllable becomes a half third tone when it is followed by a first, second, fourth or neutral tone syllable. Listen to your teacher’s examples.

Modulation of tones

When a third tone is followed by another third tone, the former will be pronounced as the second tone. Listen to your teacher’s examples.

The modulation of 不 bù

The basic tone for 不 is the fourth tone bù. It changes to the second when it is followed by another fourth or neutral tone syllable. Listen to your teacher’s examples.

The modulation of 一 yī

The basic tone for 一 is the first tone yī. We use this tone when reading 一 alone, counting or calling out numbers, or when 一 appears at the end of a sentence. But if preceded by the first, second or third tones, 一 is pronounced as the fourth tone yì; if preceded by a fourth or neutral tone, 一 is pronounced as the second tone yí. Listen to your teacher’s examples.

UNIT 1 dān yuán yī 单元一	DAILY EXPRESSIONS rì yòng yǔ 日常用语	LESSON 1 dì yī kè 第一课
------------------------------	---	-----------------------------



(一) péng péng nǐ hǎo
朋朋：你好！

gāo míng nǐ hǎo
高明：你好！

(二) èr xiǎo zhèng nǐ hǎo ma
小正：你好吗？

xiǎo huān hěn hǎo
小欢：很好。

(三) sān péng péng zǎo ān
朋朋：早安。

ān nà zǎo ān
安娜：早安。

(四) sì gāo míng duì bu qǐ
高明：对不起。

xiǎo huān méi yǒu guān xi
小欢：没（有）关系。

(五) wǔ xiǎo zhèng xiè xiè
小正：谢谢。

gāo míng bú kè qì (bú xiè)
高明：不客气。（不谢）

(六) liù péng péng zài jiàn
朋朋：再见。

ān nà zài jiàn
安娜：再见。

(七) qī jiù mìng a
救命啊！



1. 你	nǐ	you (singular)
2. 好	hǎo	good; well; fine
你好	nǐ hǎo	hello; wish you are well
3. 吗	ma	(a particle used at the end of a question)
你好吗	nǐ hǎo ma	how are you
4. 很	hěn	very
5. 早①	zǎo	morning
早安	zǎo'ān	good morning (0700~1100)
6. 不	bù	no
对不起	duìbuqǐ	sorry
7. 没(有)	méi(yǒu)	does not have; do not have
没(有)关系	méi(yǒu) guānxi	doesn't matter
8. 谢谢	xièxie	thank you
9. 客气	kèqi	polite; courteous
不客气	bú kèqi	you're welcome
10. 再	zài	again
见	jiàn	meet
再见	zàijiàn	see (you) again; goodbye
11. 救命	jiùmìng	help!
12. 啊	a	(modal particle)